



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Isaiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett,

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I would like to thank you for coming to the East County Regional Services Center to present your budget priorities and to hear from East County residents. I also thank you for the opportunity to present the top FY17 Operating Budget Priorities that we have identified for the East County region. ECCAB's FY17 operating budget priorities align with your six-point economic development plan and goals in support of healthy and informed residents with adequate public safety, and improved transportation in Montgomery County.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The approval of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan and relocation of the Washington Adventist Hospital will bring much needed economic development to East County and we encourage the County to support development efforts in this area through business assistance programs such as the MOVE Program. We also continue to support funding for the establishment of the White Oak Transportation Management District and revitalization of the Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center ensuring any development is aligned with the Burtonsville Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Currently, most East County residents must go to other parts of the County in order to receive health and human service programs. East County residents still need a sustainable community-based human service delivery mechanism and we urge the County to continue to fund these services and programs in this area. This includes funding programs for health services, social services, youth development and academic support, workforce development, financial literacy programs, senior services, and enhanced before and after school care for elementary and middle school children with emphasis in homework assistance and tutoring.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety remains a concern for many residents in East County. ECCAB believes that if we are to attract new businesses in East County and to improve the quality of life for current residents, we need to ensure that crime is sufficiently addressed. We request continued funding for additional police officers in the Third District to strengthen community-based policing services. Additionally, with the gradual urbanization of our suburbs and growing density of vehicles on streets and roads we need sidewalks added to communities that were originally built without sidewalks to make pedestrians and bicyclists (especially school-age) safer and to put in more safety measures that protect pedestrians and bicyclists at intersections and crossings.

HOUSING

East County needs more workforce affordable housing available to young and first-time home buyers to support the vibrant revitalization desired in East County. In addition, with a growing boomer-age population desiring to age in-place, we request funding of both senior affordable housing and programs for at-home services. Residents in East County have also voiced the need for more inspectors to enforce housing codes and enforcement of permits issued so no variances are made.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In provisioning library services and resources to all County citizens, we ask that in areas where certain resources are lacking or the behavior of the user population is not conducive to the operation hours of the libraries, the hours be extended, and digital resources be more readily made available. In areas, such as in East County, where there is a lack of transportation or because of parental occupational commitments, we encourage funding for mobile library services.

ANNUAL FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

In the last few years, we have seen a growing sense of community pride in East County and would like to strengthen it through various community celebrations. We feel now is the perfect time to host an annual fireworks show to be held in a recreational area within East County and request funding to host an annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of ECCAB's FY 17 priorities for East County and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,



Anthony Ramirez
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Jewru Bandeh, Director, ECRSC